

U.S. Pat. Appl'n 10/823,013
Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A materials tester latching coupling device comprising:
a housing securable to a material tester, having a bore, a groove within said bore, and a groove wall;
an interfacser having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore, said interfacser comprising a penetrator; and
a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said interfacser and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing,
and wherein said latching coupling device is used in conjunction with a penetration hardness tester.
2. (Previously presented) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said annular flange has an angled surface.
3. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein when said shank is inserted into said bore, said shank and an inner wall of said bore substantially do not contact each other except at said resilient member.
4. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said shank includes a flat portion adapted for use with a spring-loaded-ball assembly.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member comprises one of a spring and an elastomer O-ring.

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7. (Original) A materials tester latching coupling device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said resilient member is a canted coil spring.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of securing a penetrator to a penetration hardness tester, comprising the steps of:

providing a housing securable to a penetration hardness tester, the housing having a bore, a groove in said bore, and a groove wall;

providing a penetrator having a shank, a shoulder, and an annular flange formed on said shank, said shank insertable into said bore;

providing a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions;

inserting said shank into said bore, wherein said first portion of said resilient member is supported by said annular flange of said penetrator and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A penetration hardness tester penetrator coupler for securing a penetrator having an annular flange to a penetration hardness tester, comprising:

a housing securable to a penetration hardness tester, having at least one side having a bore, and further having an end face, a groove, and a groove wall, said bore adapted to receive the penetrator; and

a resilient member positioned within said groove and having first and second portions, wherein when the penetrator is inserted into said bore, said first portion of said resilient member is supported by the annular flange of the penetrator and said second portion of said resilient member is supported by said groove wall of said housing.

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13. (Cancelled)